14. (Amended) A method according to claim 9, [in which] wherein multiple collections of the PROFILEs are each stored at [a] different [site] REGIONAL SERVERs, and each collection contains substantially all of the PROFILEs.

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action mailed January 30, 1996, claims 1-14 have been amended. Claims 1-14 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

II. Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

In paragraph (5), the Office Action provisionally rejected claims 1-14 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of co-pending application Serial No. 08/217,067.

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Further, in light of the provisional nature of the rejection and the claim amendments above, the Applicant will postpone a substantive response to the double patenting rejection until an indication of allowable claims is received in the application.

III. Arguments Related to Prior Art References

A. The Office Action Rejections

In paragraph (7), the Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,287,537 to Newmark, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,303,379 to Khoyi. In paragraph (a), the Office Action rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Newmark, in view of Khoyi, and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,187,790 to East. In paragraph (9), the Office Action rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Newmark, in view of Khoyi, and in view of the APS system used by the PTO. Finally, in paragraph (10), the Office Action rejected claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Newmark, in view of Khoyi, and in view of the publication by Adiba entitled "Databases for Office Automation".

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, the Applicant has amended claims to more particularly distinguish the invention over the cited references.

B. The Applicant's Claimed Invention

The Applicant's invention comprises a method and system for performing automated resource management. A plurality of servers are grouped into local servers and regional servers. Each of the local servers stores resources, while each of the regional servers stores profiles of resources associated with the local

servers. The local and regional servers are linked together so that profiles and resources can be electronically transferred therebetween. The system also includes one or more PCs coupled to the servers. Each of the PCs can store profiles of resources on the regional servers, can search all of the profiles in all of the regional servers, and can access a resource from any of the local servers based on the searched profiles.

C.   The Newmark Reference

The Newmark reference discloses a distributive computer system having a plurality of digital computer systems interconnect by a bus. Each computer system runs one or more programs. When it receives a command directed to a system device or a program, it determines whether it can fulfill the command. If not, it determines which one of the other computer system can fulfill the command based upon retaining information stored locally and forwards the command to the other computer system.

D.   The Khoyi Reference

The Khoyi reference discloses a link mechanism for linking data between objects and for performing operations on the linked data in an object based system. The object based system includes an extensible set of object types in a corresponding set of object managers, wherein each object manager is a program for operating with the data stored in a corresponding type of object.

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E. The East Reference

The East reference discloses a system for determining the rights of object access for a server process that combines them with the rights of client process. A server process temporarily impersonates the characteristics of a client process when the client process performs a remote procedure called on the server process. Each process has an identifier list with a plurality of identifiers that characterize the process. The server process generates a new identifier list which is either the same as the client process' list or is the union of the servers and the clients lists. Each object in the system can have an access control list which defines the identifiers that a process must have in order to access the object. The operational system has access checking software for enabling a selected process access to a specified object when the identifiers for the process match the list of identifiers in the access control list of the specified object. The server can therefore access all objects accessible to the client while the server is working for the client. The server then restores the original identifier list after completing the services that it performs for the client.

F. The APS Reference

The APS reference discloses a method of text searching and retrieval from a database. Search requests can include multiple terms that are combined using boolean operators.

G. The Adiba Reference

The Adiba reference discloses centralized and distributed relational database management systems (DBMS). The DBMS can manage data stored in several computers linked by a network, i.e., distributed DBMS. The data may be distributed, i.e., partitioned and/or duplicated, over several sites, but a given user linked to a particular site might be able to query and modify the distributed database as if it were centralized.

H. The Combination of References as Compared to the Applicant's Claims

The Applicant respectively traverses the rejections in light of amended independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 9. The references, taken individually or in any combination, do not teach or suggest the novel elements of the Applicant's independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 9.

More specifically, the references do not teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed limitations directed to grouping the servers between local servers and regional servers, wherein each of the local servers stores resources and each of the regional servers stores profiles of resources associated with the local servers. Further, the references do not teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed limitations directed to the attached PCs searching all the profiles in all of the regional servers and then accessing resource from any one of the local servers based on the searched profiles.

The Newmark reference has little relevance to these aspects of the Applicant's invention. While the Newmark reference discloses a distributed processing system, it does not recognize the logical grouping of regional versus local servers, nor does it recognize the advantages of storing profiles on regional servers while the resources associated with those profiles are stored on local servers.

The Khoyi reference is even less relevant to the Applicant's invention. It too fails to recognize the Applicant's invention of grouping servers into regional servers and local servers, or storing profiles of resources on regional servers and the resources on local servers.

The East reference is relevant only to claim 4, as it discloses an access control list. However, the East reference is not relevant to the independent claims.

The APS reference likewise is relevant only to claim 7, which is directed to Boolean searching. However, the APS reference is not relevant to the independent claims.

Finally, the Adiba reference discusses distributed databases, but fails to teach or suggest the Applicant's invention of grouping servers into regional servers and local servers, and storing profiles on regional servers while the associated resources are stored on local servers.

The Applicant's invention provides several advantages over the cited prior art references. The Applicant's invention provides a system for storing information in a manner in which

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retrieval is simplified. Moreover, the information can be communicated with other information and made available to all attached computers. Finally, the multiple databases are linked together in a manner that enhances the ability of the user to search all the databases as though they were a single database.

IV. Conclusion

In conclusion, since independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 of the present application recite features which are not found in the references, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 9, and hence all the claims dependent thereon, recite novel physical features which patentably distinguish over any and all references under 35 U.S.C § 102 and § 103. Moreover, the dependent claims recite additional novel structures, functions and steps that are even more remote from the teachings of the cited references. As a result, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of the present application without further delay.
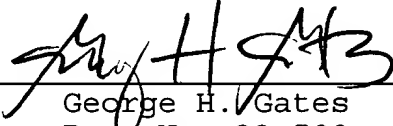
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectively solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney.
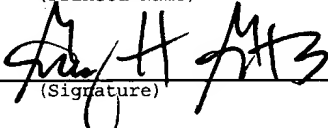
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 29, 1996   By: _____
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                        Reg. No. 33,500

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